implementation. The progress is being monitored closely.

Implementation of recommendations of Wage Board by Newspaper Managements

*119. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any review has recently been undertaken by Government to find out the number of such newspaper managements who are dithering in the implementation of the Award/Recommendations made by the Bachawat Wage Board; and

(b) if so, the number of such managements and action taken or proposed to be taken by Government against such establishments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) As per the latest information available from the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, out of 1670 newspaper establishments, so far 556 managements have fully implemented the Bharhawat Wage Boards recommendations. Another 49 have reportedly partially implemented the recommendations. The State Governments have been addressed from time to time to take appropriate steps to ensure implementation of the recommendation of the Bachawat Wage Boards.

23 writ petitions are also presently filed in the Supreme Court by the newspaper managements, challenging the recommendations of the Bachawat Wage Boards and the notifications issued by the Government regarding these recommendations. The Supreme Court in their interim order dated 30.1.90 had odered that no prosecution shall be launched till the petitions are disposed of. The matter continues to be subjudice.

In respect of offences under the Working journalists & Other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955 the roncerned persons, can also the complaints in court against the establishment concerned of Act.

The State Governments and Union Territory Administrations were requested to intimate the total number of complaints/claims filed before the competent authority for non-payment/less payment of the allowances as per Bachawat Wage Boards recommendations. The State Governments of Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Pondicherry have replied that no such complaint/claim are pending with them. Other States have not sent any reply in this regard.

Meeting of Civil Supplies Ministers of States on PDS

*120. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister had a meeting with the Civil Supplies Ministers of various States on 3rd October, 1991, to take stock of the steps taken for extension of Public Distribution System to the designated remote and tribal areas;

(b) if so, the States which were represented at the meeting and what were the designated remote and tribal areas considered for Public Distribution System; and

(c) whether any drawbacks in the working of the system were noted at the meeting, if so, the steps taken to remove the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) The Prime Minister had a meeting with the Civil Supplies Ministers of various States on 3rd October, 1991 to take stock of the steps taken on implementing the decisions taken in the 13th Meeting of the Advisory Council on Public Distribution System held in August, 1991 to